

Community Newsletter

May 2020



emmaus
Cambridge
working together to end homelessness



Emmaus Cambridge Digs in

Despite the difficult period, the community
continues to work together

working together to end homelessness

Supporting the cause

Central to the Emmaus ethos is the concept of 'solidarity'.

In the words of our founder Abbé Pierre "serve first those that suffer most". This means helping people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Here at Emmaus Cambridge we take solidarity seriously! Over the course of a year, we provide over 600 packages of furniture and other essential items to newly housed families and individuals. By taking the appropriate precautions we are still able to do this despite the virus.

Two relatively small, yet deeply meaningful, acts of solidarity occurred last week. Firstly, One of our companions received a message from a friend of ours in Milton who is also a friend of EACH Children's Hospice.

"Do you know if Emmaus have any donated poly-cotton sheets or duvets in patterns or bright colour or any colour which they might be happy to donate to be used to make scrubs for the EACH Hospice in Milton, please?

Ideally a minimum 30% cotton and not too thin. It's just an idea as people are hoping to make scrubs as the hospice



material.

are short due to COVID. Thank you."

They had the pattern but needed the



Pictured above is our operations manager, Graham and below is Tom, a companion at Emmaus Cambridge. Both delivering the material.

We were also contacted by someone who was looking for material to make drawstring bags for a local hospital. "I have been asked by a friend of mine, who is a doctor in a hospital, to make pillowcase-size drawstring bags from fabric that can withstand a 60-degree wash (eg cotton, polycotton). It is to put clinicians' work clothes in at the end of the day so that they can be taken home safely and put straight in the wash."

So we sprang into action!

Shortly after we received a lovely letter from EACH:

"Thank you all at Emmaus for the brightly coloured duvet covers and sheets to convert into urgently needed scrubs for Milton EACH.

They've been distributed around Milton and Chesterton this morning along with professionally printed scrubs patterns from Printout in Histon ready for sewing.

I hope we might send you some photos when they are made!

I love the idea that the bright colours you sent will be like a rainbow of colour going into the Hospice like the rainbows all the children are putting in the windows!

Thank you again, and Graham!"



Outside work, made easier by the amazing weather

There has been a lot in the media lately about getting out in to the garden.

As well as alleviating boredom it lets us get in touch with nature, improve our environment and maybe grow some delicious veg'.

And...It's spring!

The first busy time in a gardener's year: beds to prepare, seeds to sow, lawns will soon need mowing and the first 'crop' of weeds is appearing!

Unfortunately, our stalwart volunteer Graham cannot be with us at the moment but there are plenty of willing companions giving their time to make sure our garden this year will be the best it's ever been!

Our alliums (onions, garlic and shallots), which were planted last autumn by students from Castle School have started to 'spring up' and promise a good crop to come.

Emmaus has had a relationship with Castle School for some years and we miss their company. The peas they planted in one of the raised beds have surpassed expectations!

New companion Tommy has shown us just what a potato trench should look like (Pictured above): straight out of the textbook and something I would have been proud of even in my younger years!

Community in the Garden

This is Tommy and Ian (I think the picture sums up our community spirit!) Ian has lived here for over 20 years, Tommy for a few weeks. In between are the rest of us: some long term companions who want to stay forever, some who will 'move on' to their own accommodation.





The Two Point Six Challenge

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a catastrophic effect with the cancellation of thousands of events and the loss of billions in income through fundraising events.

The community decided that they would walk 26 miles over 4 days, so 6.5 miles each day. The first day was a lovely warm day, with the others wet. However, we continued and got it done.

Thank you to all those who have already donated. There is still time to donate if you can by visiting www.justgiving.com/fundraising/emmaus-cambridge-does-the-2-6-challenge.

Support Emmaus Cambridge

Donate to us

The current Covid-19 situation poses a significant risk to Emmaus Cambridge, and a donation from you will help us to continue our vital work during this crisis. We know times are tough for everyone at the moment, and we're all working hard to find a way through this. Thank you for your support.

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Despite our shop being temporarily shut, our eBay store remains open here www.ebay.co.uk/str/emmauscambidge

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